

WEAPONS &

AMMO SAFETY





INTRODUCTION

The importance of attention to detail and the avoidance of complacency when using weapons and pyrotechnics in garrison and tactical environments is ~~paramount.~~

Protect the Force Through Risk Management

OBJECTIVE



***Apply RISK MANAGEMENT
to Weapons, Ammunition*
and Range Operations
for ACCIDENT
PREVENTION.***

*** Ammunition includes pyrotechnics**

REASONS FOR ERRORS



The major underlying reasons for errors related to all accidents and injuries are:

- **Lack of self-discipline.**
- **Failure to enforce standards.**

-
- **Inadequate training.**

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WEAPONS



Most common injury-producing areas in the handling of weapons:

- **Failure to follow procedures**
- **Improper or inadequate clearing**

WEAPONS



**Most common injury-producing areas in the handling of weapons
(Continued):**

- **Personnel in the path of recoil or back-blast**
- **~~Fratricide~~**

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Mission: Conduct tube wear test

24 Jun 99

Hazards

- ❑ Improper body position
- ❑ Not following proper misfire procedures
- ❑ Unqualified personnel conducting duties

Results

- ❑ 1 Fatality

Controls

- ❑ Maintain proper body position
- ❑ Ensure compliance with SOP



SCENARIO



While on deployment in Albania, a junior officer was in his barracks room handling another officer's 9mm weapon when it accidentally discharged, striking him in the left thigh.

RESULT



The soldier was transported to an allied medical facility *where he underwent surgery for amputation.* The round had severed his femoral artery.

FACTORS



Factors Leading To The Injury:

- **Failure to follow procedures**
- **Improper or inadequate clearing**



AMMUNITION



Most common injury-producing areas in the handling of ammunition & pyrotechnics:

- **Failure to properly observe safety features**
- **Improper procedures**
- **Improper attention**
 - **in the recoil or back-blast area**

AMMUNITION



Most common injury-producing areas in the handling of ammunition & pyrotechnics:

- **Detonating a “found” simulator**
- **Faulty simulator - premature or inadvertent discharge**

SCENARIO



After conducting defensive operations during a JRTC rotation, an experienced infantry NCO handled an artillery simulator in an unauthorized manner.

The NCO punctured a simulator, poured the powder onto the ground and ignited the powder with a lighter.

RESULT



**As a result, the NCO
received burns to his
hand, head and his right
eye resulting in
*permanent loss of vision.***

FACTORS



Factors Leading to the Injury:

- **Failure to properly observe safety features**
- **Improper procedures**

RANGE OPERATIONS



Most common injury-producing areas in range operations:

- **Demolitions**
- **Inadequate training**
- **Target misidentification and negligent discharge**

RANGE OPERATIONS



**Most common injury-producing areas in range operations:
(continued):**

- **Inadequate planning**
- **Inadequate supervision**

Mission: Conduct Night Live Fire (From Trench Line)

Hazards

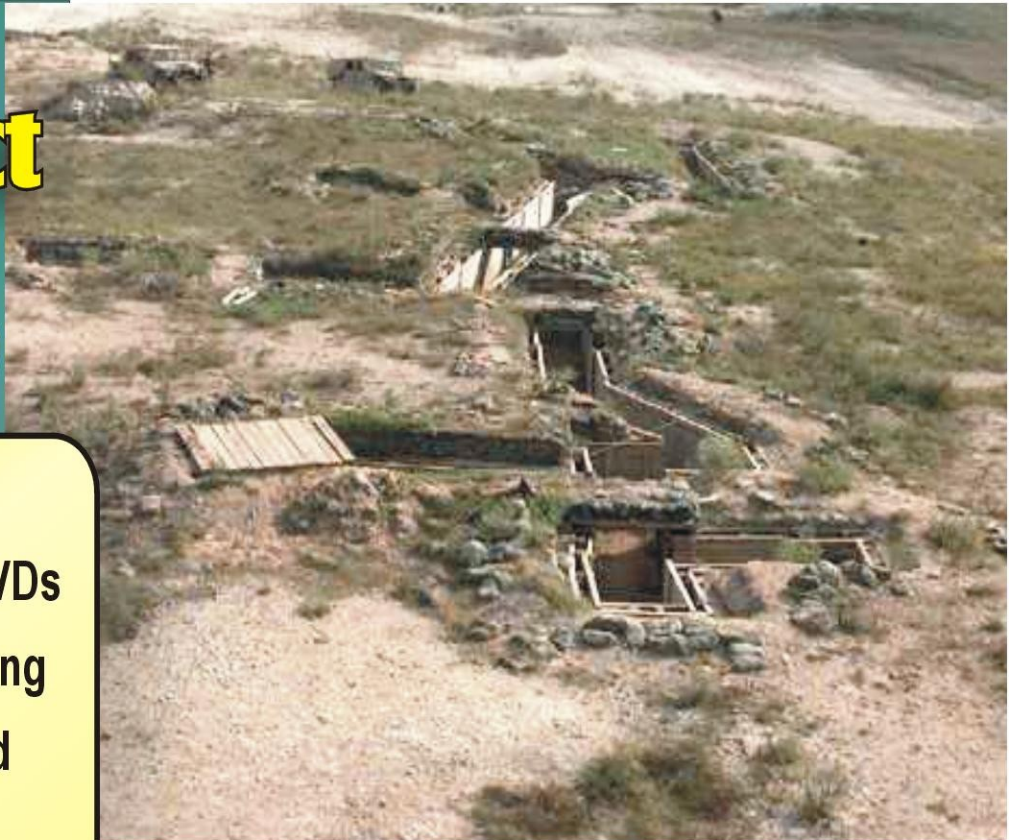
- ❑ Soldiers not having confidence in NVDs
- ❑ Not identifying targets before engaging
- ❑ Sectors of fire not clearly established
- ❑ Range fan markers not visible

Results

- ❑ 1 Fatality

Controls

- ❑ Train soldiers on NVD use and limitations
- ❑ Positive ID of targets prior to engagement
- ❑ Establish specific individual sectors of fire in compliance with range SOPs and STPs
- ❑ Adequately illuminate range fan limits



FACTORS



Factors Leading To The Fatality:

- Inadequate training
- Target misidentification & negligent discharge
- Failure to follow procedures
- Failure to enforce

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Personnel were burning excess artillery propellant bags. There was a HMMWV parked about 9 ft from the burn site. The heat from the fire induced a low-order detonation of a 155 mm "HE" round



RESULT



Fire/detonation destroyed:

HMMWV

SINGARS Radios

NVDs

M2 Compass

Circle

Bayonets

~~bags~~

Star clusters

2 M16 Rifles

AN/PVS7A

M2 Aiming

Propellant

Canvas

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REQUIREMENTS



**AR 385-63 prescribes
Department of the Army
and Marine Corps range
safety policies,
procedures,
responsibilities, and
standards for firing
ammunition, guided
missiles, and large**

POLICY



**The safe conduct of
soldiers firing,
detonating explosives,
and maneuvering on
ranges is a **command
responsibility.****

POLICY



- **The safe conduct of soldiers firing, detonating explosives, and maneuvering on ranges is a **command responsibility**.**
- **Any individual observing a dangerous firing condition will immediately announce a cease-fire.**

REQUIREMENTS



Commanders At All Levels With A Mission Involving Ranges Will:

- **Ensure a range safety program is established**
- **Comply with range accident prevention policies**

~~These are accomplished~~
through the appointment of

REQUIREMENTS



Who Can Be An OIC?

**AR 385-63, Table 4-1
lays out rank requirements for
different types of ranges.**

***Example: an artillery range
requires an officer, warrant
officer or an NCO with a rank
of E-7 or above.***

REQUIREMENTS



Who Can Be An RSO?

**AR 385-63 Table 4-1
lays out rank requirements for
different types of ranges.**

***Example: a live-fire exercise
using organic weapons, squad
through***

Company/Battery/Troop

requires an officer, warrant

~~officer or an NCO with a rank of~~

E-6 or above.

refer to the table from this
Management

GUIDELINES



Range Safety Certification Programs

Range safety certification programs will be used to train and qualify personnel in the duties of OIC and RSO for firing exercises and/or maneuver operations.

REPORTING

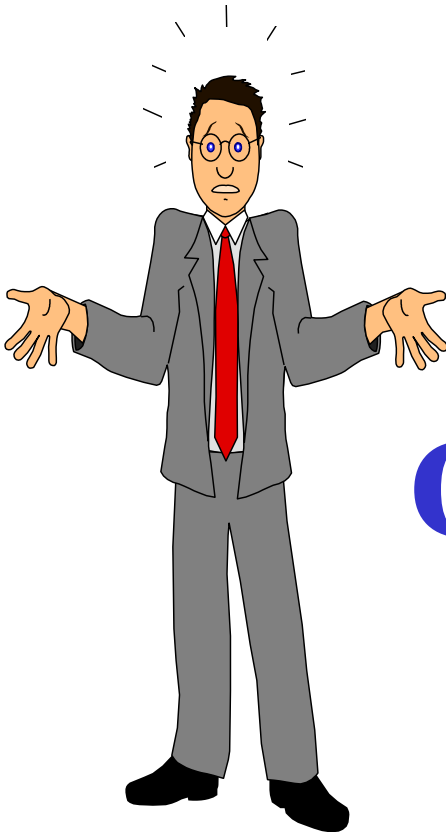


Accident & Malfunction Reporting

- **Accidents will be reported IAW AR 385-40.**

- **Malfunctions will be reported IAW**

AR 75-1. Protect the Force Through Risk Management



SUMMARY

QUESTIONS?



U.S. ARMY SAFETY CENTER